# City of Hattiesburg, MS

*200 Forrest St.*
*P.O. Box 1898*
*Hattiesburg, MS 39401*

# Minutes Report

**Monday, February 6, 2017**

**4:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

# <u>City Council</u>

## Agenda Review

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Agenda Review of the Hattiesburg City Council was held at 4:00 p.m. Monday, February 6, 2017, in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Those present included members of the City Council Kim Bradley, Ward 1; Deborah Delgado, Ward 2 (Teleconference); Carter Carroll, Ward 3; Mary Dryden, Ward 4; and Henry Naylor, Ward 5. Others in attendance included Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; Chief Financial Officer, Sharon Waits; Police Chief, Anthony Parker; Assistant Police Chief, Frank Misenhelter; Director of Public Works, Larry Barnes; Director of Federal and State Programs, La'Keylah White; Director of Urban Development, Pattie Brantley; Planning Administrator, Ginger Maddox; Land Code Administrator, Steve Mitchell; Code Enforcement Manager, Mark Jordan; City Attorney, Annie Amos; Clerk of Council, Debbie Bernardo; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu; media; and the public.

The MEETING was called to order by Council President Carroll.

Council President Carroll proceeded with the Agenda Review.

Regarding Policy Agenda Item VI.1, Lynn Norris of Government Consultants provided an update on the one percent sales tax for local and private legislation.

Council Vice President Dryden read aloud from section 5 of the resolution, and she said she has concerns how the wording is phrased.

Regarding Policy Agenda Item VI.3, Mr. Jordan explained the reason for rescinding the resolutions for unsafe properties; he said that legal descriptions are cut and pasted into the resolution from the title opinions provided to the Land Code department, and that this does not represent an error by the clerk. Mr. Jordan said this is the first time this has happened in the 18 months he has.

Council President Carroll asked Mr. Gladden to research state statute requirements on whether title opinions are necessary for unsafe properties. Mr. Jordan said that state statute requires the City to get the title opinion from the tax roll due to the levels of safety violations. Mr. Gladden recommended following state statute but said he will research the matter.

Council President Carroll asked for clarity that the title opinion costs $250 per opinion. Mr. Jordan replied in the affirmative.

In response to a question from Council Vice President Dryden, Mr. Jordan said that the City was not charged for the corrected legal description for the subdivision in question; he also stated that he has put a process in place that will prevent this type of error from occurring again.

Council President Carroll stated that there will be some possible additions to the agenda tomorrow regarding debris removal contractors and consultants.

Council member Bradley asked if the Council will select the debris removal contract and consultant tomorrow. Mr.

Keaton responded that there will be a meeting at 11 a.m. tomorrow morning regarding the selection. Council President Carroll said that he spoke with the Mayor and that committee members will include Mr. Eaton, Ms. Waits, Ms. Beech and Mr. Barnes]. Mr. Eaton said he hopes the committee's recommendation will be made in time for tomorrow's Council meeting.

Council Vice President Dryden asked Mr. Eaton to email the committee's scoring to each of the Council members so they can review it in advance of the meeting; Mr. Eaton agreed to do so.

Council President Carroll asked Mr. Eaton how long the scoring will take; Mr. Eaton estimated that it may take two hours. Ms. Waits said it should take several hours due to the number of proposals. Mr. Barnes stated that the committee will determine the top three contractors and recommend the highest-scored contractor to handle the debris removal.

Council President Carroll asked if one contractor will be sufficient to remove the debris; Mr. Barnes replied in the affirmative.

Following discussion of agenda items, Council President Carroll closed the Agenda Review.

## Citizens' Forum

Council member Naylor proceeded with the Citizens' Forum. He stated the procedures and invited members of the public to speak.

Mark Klinedinst, board member of the Downtown Hattiesburg Farmer's Association, distributed a budget proposal and asked the Council for financial support. He said the association is in its 14th year and has operated independently until now. Council President Carroll explained that the Council will not know what funds are available until April.

Beverly Shaw, 814 Martin Luther King Avenue, appeared before the Council to ask for assistance removing a large piece of tin from a tree; she said she otherwise had minor tornado damage, but that the tin is hanging above her house. Council President Carroll asked Mr. Barnes to talk with Ms. Shaw.

Frankie Benton, 19 Langston Road, appeared before the Council.  He distribute sealed letters to each of the Council members and discussed problems getting drainage issues resolved at his property.

Joseph Rawson, 701 Dearborne Road, appeared before the Council regarding the salary increase for the Mayor and City Council for the 2017-2020 term. He also spoke in favor of the sales taxes resolution and suggested amending it to include a ten-year repealer so that it could be lowered to one-half percent.

Rev. Robert Abrams, 613 Sunset Drive, appeared before the Council regarding the land application wastewater system treatment; he said costs should have been paid by Groundworx and asked whether the City will try to recover those funds.

There were no other citizens present who wished to address the Council.

Council member Naylor closed the Citizens' Forum.

**2017-285** Citizens' Forum Sign-In Sheet, 2-6-17

1. 2-6-17 Citizens' Forum Sign-In Sheet

**2017-286** Proposal from Mark Klinedinst, President of the Downtown Hattiesburg Farmer's Association, 2-6-17

1. 2-6-17 Proposal from Mark Klinedinst

## Work Session

Council President Carroll proceeded with the Work Session, which included a discussion of brown water by Mr. Frierson and Frances Griffin, division manager for water billing, and a discussion of fire station safe rooms by Fire Marshall Stephen Mooney.

### 1. Dryden - Brown Water

**2017-287** Attorney Opinion Regarding Water Bills to Attorney Amos, 2-6-17

1. Water Bill Attorney Opinion, 2-6-17

### 2. Dryden - Fire Station Safe Rooms

## Additional Business

Council President Carroll called for additional business.

Catherine Anderson, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist External Affairs with FEMA, and Greg Dawson, Public Affairs Specialist with the Small Business Administration (SBA), presented information on disaster relief. Ms. Anderson and Mr. Dawson both distributed fact sheets as part of their presentation.

There was no other additional business.

**2017-288** Presentation from Catherine Anderson, FEMA and Greg Dawson, SBA, 2-6-17

1. FEMA Presentation, 2-6-17
2. SBA Presentation, 2-6-17

## Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Council member Bradley and seconded by Council Vice President Dryden to consider the need to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (b).

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - Bradley, Delgado, Carroll, Dryden and Naylor

Nays: 0

A MOTION was made by Council member Bradley and seconded by Council Vice President Dryden to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (b).

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - Bradley, Delgado, Carroll, Dryden and Naylor

Nays: 0

Those present for the Executive Session were Council members Bradley, Delgado, Carroll, Dryden and Naylor; Mr. Eaton; Attorney Amos; and Ms. Bernardo. Chief Parker entered the room at 5:07 p.m.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

A MOTION was made by Council member Bradley and seconded by Council Vice President Dryden to come out of Executive Session and re-open the meeting to the public at 5:12 p.m.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - Bradley, Delgado, Carroll, Dryden and Naylor

Nays: 0

By unanimous consent, Council President Carroll closed the meeting at 5:12 p.m., this the 6th day of February, A.D., 2017.